

Bond Swamp

National Wildlife Refuge

photo: R. Shell



photo: R. Idenden



photo: R. Idenden



photo: C. Shaw



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Refuge Facts

- Established: 1989.
- Acres: 5,500.
- Located in Bibb County and Twiggs County, GA.
- Location: refuge is located 6 miles south of Macon, GA on the Ocmulgee River.

Natural history

- 5,500 acres bottomland hardwoods, & swamp forests.
- Interspersed throughout the area are creeks, tributaries, beaver swamps, and oxbow lakes.
- Habitat for a diversity of wildlife including bald eagles, wood ducks, migratory waterfowl, wading birds, song birds, white-tailed deer, turkeys, black bears, and alligators.

Financial Impact of Refuge

- Currently no budget appropriated for operations.
- Currently closed to public access due to no budget or personnel.
- Currently unstaffed (1 FTE vacant).

Refuge Objectives

- Preserve and protect a diverse, threatened wetland ecosystem and its associated values.
- Preserve, protect, reestablish, and manage for endangered and threatened species of wildlife: bald eagle (threatened), swainson's warbler, prothonotary warbler, wood thrush (listed by state as species of special concern).
- Manage for migratory birds and resident wood ducks.
- Manage native wildlife species and their associated habitats.
- Provide compatible wildlife dependent recreational opportunities, interpretation, and environmental education to the public.

Management Tools

- Partnerships: active member of the Ocmulgee Heritage Greenway.
- Education/interpretation.

Public Use Opportunities

Limited under special use permit and accompaniment by refuge staff.

Calendar of Events

December-February: peak wintering waterfowl use by wood ducks, ring necked ducks, and mallards.

February: nesting bald eagles.

April: peak migration of neotropical songbirds.

June: nesting of neotropical songbirds including species of special concern such as swainsons warbler; prothonotary warbler; and wood thrush.

Questions and Answers

When will you open the refuge to the public?

Currently, we lack the funding and personnel required to open the refuge so the public can use it safely, and so we can protect refuge wildlife. We will open the refuge after it receives funding and we can complete the required plans.

Will you allow hunting/fishing?

We do plan to allow hunting and fishing after we receive the needed funding and personnel to plan and manage these activities.

Will you allow canoeing/hiking?

Canoeing and hiking are two of the best ways to see wildlife. We plan to provide opportunities for them when staff and funding are available for the refuge.

Will the Ocmulgee Heritage Greenway affect the refuge and its adjacent landowners?

The proposed Greenway will include parts of the refuge along the Ocmulgee River. Refuge management is currently involved with Greenway planners to ensure quality recreational opportunities without infringement on wildlife resources or private property rights.